Assistive Technology for Individuals with Disabilities

The article titled, Assistive Technology for Individuals with Disabilities was a highly informative and interesting article and it had great pertinence to my career. The article stated that there are roughly 19% of individuals, five years or older who have a disability and these individuals lives can be greatly enhanced by using technology. The advantages to using technology are as follows: technology can improve the quality of education, balance weak areas with stronger areas, enhance career employability, and helps individuals obtain educational goals.

The article also listed a wide range of assistive devices that could be used by individuals with disabilities, such as hardware and software devices, as well as web-based programs. The hardware devices that individuals with disabilities could use are, screen readers, digitized speech, talking word processors, voice recognition, captioning, alternative keyboards and switches, just to name a few. The article also listed web based programs such as the LD Resources website, the Disability and Technology: A Resource Collection website, and Closing the Gap website. In particular, the LD Resource website contained information about a Google Ap, named GoogleScribe. GoogleScribe is a free application and it works like an expensive counterpart, named CoWriter. GoogleScribe is a word prediction software program and it aids individuals with writing disabilities. There were also several conferences on these websites and other pertinent information.

I would have to say that I found the article extremely helpful to my field of work and I have already shared GoogleScribe with several people in my department. The article really made me reflect on the technology practices in my school and how technology is being used for individuals with disabilities. I think that educators need to be more familiar with technology in order to close the gap for all students.

Tomei (ed), Lawrence A.. "Chapter A - Active Learning and its Implementation for Teaching—Asynchronous Online Networking—Cross Cultural Collaboration and the Learning of Foreign Languages". *Encyclopedia of Information Technology Curriculum Integration*. IGI Global. © 2008. Books24x7. <*http://common.books24x7.com.dml.regis.edu/book/id\_18674/book.asp*> (accessed September 22, 2010)